

COMMERCIAL CLUB INDORSES PRODUCE MARKET PROJECT; ASKS COMMITTEE FOR FACTS

Secretary Hinchey in Report to Club Urges Establishment of Exchange and Leaders Urge Business Men to Act Promptly--Three Cities to Be Asked to Send the Cape Data.

"BUY A BALE OF COTTON" SLOGAN IS ADOPTED BY CAPE GIRARDEAU

Committee Appointed to Canvass City and Ascertain How Many People Will Purchase Cotton and Relieve the Producers Living in the Lower Counties.

The Commercial club last night went on record as favoring the establishment of a produce market in Cape Girardeau, and a committee of three was appointed to collect information concerning the project and make its report to the Commercial club.

Action on the market idea followed the report of Allan Hinchey, Secretary of the club, who heartily recommended it and presented a sound argument in support of the market. Every member of the club present indorsed the proposition and Dr. W. S. Dearthmont, Phil A. Hoch and J. H. McPherson spoke in favor of the project, each showing that other cities had profited by maintaining a produce exchange.

Mr. McPherson told of the benefits derived by Little Rock through its market; Dr. Dearthmont explained how the scheme had worked in Duluth and Mr. Hoch cited the Grand Rapids market as a criterion for Cape Girardeau to follow.

Mr. McPherson in discussing the subject expressed his belief that if a market were provided where the farmer could have positive assurance that he could dispose of his product without the necessity of peddling it over town at a great sacrifice of time and money, there would be no necessity for providing an automobile service.

He stated that without the common point of distribution he did not believe that the desired purpose could be accomplished. Special mention was made of the manner in which the market was established in Little Rock, Ar., a few years ago, of its wonderful success and the great benefits derived therefrom by producers, dealers and consumers.

Professor Dearthmont followed with an interesting talk in which he lamented the difficulty encountered in obtaining home grown products in this city under present conditions.

He stated that in the fifteen years he had resided in the Cape he had never been able to procure home grown vegetables, fruits, etc., of the quality and variety desired. He said that while living in St. Louis the service in this respect was much more satisfactory than that offered in the Cape.

He expressed the belief that there was not sufficient crop produced to create a market and that distribution by peddlers caused needless waste of time by both consumer and producer, as it often occurred neither would have the correct change when a purchase was made, and that it was sometimes necessary to stop numerous wagons before the desired articles could be obtained.

He strongly favored the establishment of a market and was confident that it would not only prove to be a great convenience, but would be the means of encouraging the farmers to engage more extensively in the crops which have heretofore been neglected.

He referred to the market at Duluth, Minn., and showed the great benefits derived from its establishment.

P. A. Hoch expressed ideas much in accord with those of Messrs. McPherson and Dearthmont, and called attention to the growth of the market at Grand Rapids, Mich.

A committee composed of Prof. W. W. Martin, J. H. McPherson and William Bergmann were instructed to correspond with the authorities in Little Rock, Duluth and Grand Rapids for the purpose of obtaining all the information possible on the market subject.

They were also instructed to obtain information from any other source, with the view of learning the various methods pursued in the establishment of such institutions, to be reported at the next meeting when further action will be taken by the Commercial club.

The distressed condition of the cotton growers in Southeast Missouri was next taken up, and various relief methods were discussed.

Mr. McPherson stated that he owns cotton land in the southern sections and that he knows that at this time there is no market for that commodity. He said that no bids had been received and at this time there are no buyers on the streets.

He stated that heretofore the cotton crop has largely been disposed of in Japan, England, Germany and France, but that on account of the European disturbances no foreign buyers have yet appeared. The tenants on the cotton farms are in a destitute condition and are unable to find

a market for a single pound of their crop.

The merchants cannot afford to extend their credit further and most of them are in actual need of the necessities of life.

President D. A. Glenn stated that the business men of St. Louis had arranged to purchase a considerable quantity of the product at \$50 per bale in order to provide temporary relief for the sufferers. He also advised them that the International Shoe company of St. Louis, had agreed to buy 1000 bales to be stored until a market opens.

Secretary Hinchey's complete report to club follows:

Since our last meeting the fair and festivities committee has been working in conjunction with the fair association board or directors in an endeavor to make of the coming Cape county fair the best in the history of the town. As is known, the Commercial club has made a guarantee of \$1500 for any deficit arising from the actual expenses of operating the fair. This does not apply to anything except the actual expenses incident to holding the fair.

Much advertising is being done and a wider interest is being aroused and in consequence it is fully expected that larger crowds than ever will visit the city. The special committee appointed by the club to help in the matter decided that some special night attractions would be necessary to get the best results, and having in view the idea of the club to get the crowds, took under consideration various plans for achieving this aim. A pageant on the river was discussed, but it was found objectionable for several reasons. Finally it was decided to have two nights of Pains fireworks at a cost of \$1000 for the two nights, and an additional cost of about \$200 for other expenses incident to the displays. The committee is working toward this aim and the idea is proving very popular all over Southeast Missouri. It is believed by the committee that these two nights of free fireworks given by the famous Pain people will draw thousands of visitors to our city.

Your secretary has taken up the matter of special train service with the Frisco railroad, asking for special midnight trains on the Gulf line to Morehouse and on the Hoxie line as far as Poplar Bluff, these trains to return to Cape Girardeau each day at a time that will do us the most good. The Frisco Superintendent, Mr. Claiborne, has replied that he has recommended the granting of our request, and he has no doubt of its approval. No special trains were asked for on the main line of the Frisco, but extra coaches were asked for on the main line trains, that will furnish us sufficient service for that line.

The bringing in of people for the night attractions will assure of larger crowds and of their remaining longer in the city.

As is known to some of you, three days of last week were used in making trips through Cape county, by representatives of the Cape and Jackson Commercial clubs, for the purpose of getting better acquainted with our rural friends. These three days were of great benefit to the men of the towns and to the men of the farms, as it permitted the men of both communities to get better acquainted. A strong fair sentiment was created at each place visited, until it is believed that hundreds of Cape county citizens will attend who would not otherwise have come.

Among matters discussed at these

meetings were: The farm adviser and county highway engineer's usefulness; better farming on a more extensive scale; better market conditions and some sort of an automobile service to bring in farm products and to take out into the country the goods from the merchants in the various towns. This is a matter that should have the immediate and serious attention of our business men. There appears to be a wide field to work upon. It seems that if the farmers will raise the products that the towns need, and then the merchants will assure of a steady market, and some sort of a rapid transit can be established that Cape county will soon be filled with prosperous truck farmers, our towns will be fully supplied with the products from the farms, eliminating the necessity for the merchants shipping in from other points, thereby paying out money that should find its way into the pockets of our home farmers. It is suggested that our Commercial club appoint a special committee on home relations to study this plan and ascertain if it can not be worked out to the profit of the farmer and the merchant.

It is also suggested that a committee be appointed to begin an immediate and energetic activity looking to the establishment of a market in Cape Girardeau for the handling of all country produce. This matter has been up before the Commercial club numerous times in the past two years, but has never been carried out. One of the aims, and the most important one, of the recent tours through the county by our business men was the creating of a better understanding between the men of the towns and the men of the farms. The matter of a more extensive farming came up, and also the question of a better market. Some of our farmer friends suggested a better market and better means of transportation into that market. This has brought squarely before us the question of doing something definite. We must show a spirit of co-operation in providing a steady market with a means of reaching it quickly and conveniently. It will not do for the men of the city to say it is the business of the farmers to provide their own means of reaching market. This is our business, too, if we hope to get the best results. If we provide the market it will keep the money in Cape county that is being now sent away for products that can be raised at home, and if we provide a rapid transit into our market we will be sure of getting a large portion of the money paid out for country produce returned to us in payment for merchandise sold.

The details must be worked out by a special committee selected for its business acumen and for its proper view as to existing conditions. All selfishness must be eliminated and the good of the entire community kept in mind.

We are now beginning the fall campaign for better business, so it is time we began our full activities. We are all aware of a stringency in money matters, but we all have hopes for a revival of business. It is then our duty to get ready for that return to better times. It is not wise to wait until things are better before getting busy. We should hasten those better times by co-operation and concerted action. We, who have grown careless and indifferent in our Commercial club intemperance should take up our activities once more and get into the game of helping Cape Girardeau grow.

The secretary has under consideration two communications looking to the establishment of industries here. One is from St. Louis parties, who are thinking of establishing a large flouring mill at this point, and want to know what the Commercial club will offer as inducement.

Your secretary has written the party making the inquiries that the club offers a free site on rail and river to all industries whose pay rolls are sufficient to justify this action, but that the club, as an organization was not in position to offer a cash bonus or to subscribe for stock. No further letters have been received from the parties.

Another communication has been received from a concrete tile and building block concern, now doing business in Indiana, wanting to know what inducements we can offer for a plant here. This concern intimates that it will take \$15,000 or \$25,000 to start the plant, but does not say if this amount of stock is to be sold or if a bonus is required. Your secretary has replied along the same lines used in dealing with these propositions as to cash bonus or stock selling.

It is well to mention that another wholesale grocery house is contemplating a location in this city, but as nothing definite has been done, no particulars can be given.

A supply of the Missouri Red Book has been received, and because of the activities of the Cape Girardeau Commercial club, the Jackson Commercial club, and the other clubs of the S. E. Mo. Federation, this volume is about a third larger than usual. Copies of this book may be had by applying to the secretary.

Father Murtaugh stated that he would buy a bale for \$50 for which he would demand a warehouse receipt showing that the article had actually been taken off the market and was being held subject to his orders.

When it was suggested that unless the purchases were made directly from the tenant growers, they would perhaps receive no benefits, Father Murtaugh qualified his offer and stated that the purchase must be made only from the farmer and not from the speculation.

E. W. Flentge stated that only the speculators were in position to give warehouse receipts, and if they could sell their holding for \$50 per bale, which amounts to about 10 cents a

pound, they would dispose of it and buy more from the tenants at 5 cents a pound, thereby working an imposition on both the purchaser and the actual grower.

The following appeal for assistance published at the instance of the Commercial club, in the Kansas County Democrat, was read to the meeting:

Appropos to the "Buy-A-Bale" movement recently inaugurated in St. Louis, started it seems to care for the Texas cotton crop, the Kennett Commercial club, at its meeting, last Monday night, after discussing the subject at length, decided to call the attention of those responsible for the "Buy-A-Bale" movement and the citizens of Missouri in general, to the fact that there is today growing in Missouri and ready to be marketed, a crop of 65,000 bales of cotton, more than 50 per cent of which is produced by Dunklin county; and that Missourians should help their Missouri neighbors first, before going to the aid of the citizens of other states.

In compliance with the action of the club, President Ely has prepared the following letter "To the Citizens of Missouri," suggesting that, for Missourians, "Buy-A-Missouri-Bale" is a better slogan than "Buy-A-Bale." To the Citizens of Missouri:

A nation-wide movement has been inaugurated to handle the surplus cotton crop of the south which has for its slogan, "Buy-A-Bale."

The purpose of this letter is to remind Missourians that within the confines of our own state and within the six counties comprising this matchless territory called "Southeast Missouri," to-wit, Dunklin, Pemiscot, New Madrid, Stoddard, Butler and Ripley, there is growing today and ready to be marketed a crop of 65,000 bales. Of this amount, Dunklin county alone produces more than 50 per cent, or more than the state of Kentucky and Virginia combined, and it is grown and gathered by Missouri white labor exclusively.

It is well we further call attention to the record of Dunklin county cotton which not only holds the world's record for acre production, but was awarded a premium at the Omaha, Portland and Buffalo expositions and at the great World's Fair at St. Louis.

No county in Missouri is able to hold 35,000 bales of cotton under the present disturbed conditions, and this is a conservative estimate of the 1914 crop in Dunklin county, notwithstanding the drought.

To St. Louisians especially we desire to say that we appreciate the attitude of the Business Men's League and other organizations towards the cotton section at this critical time, but it occurs to us, however, that St. Louis does not fully appreciate the fact that Southeast Missouri is one of the greatest cotton territories in the United States, that the people who live here and grow this staple spend every dollar at home and that eventually through our merchants it reaches the wholesale dealer in the city of St. Louis, where Dunklin county buys annually more than \$3,000,000 worth of merchandise. Not only this, but every bank in Southeast Missouri, in whose care is entrusted the savings of our people, has its principal correspondent in the city of St. Louis.

It occurs to us that St. Louisians and all Missourians should help their Missouri neighbors first.

The slogan, "Buy-A-Bale" is a good one, but "Buy-A-Missouri-Bale" is better. Especially should St. Louisians be urged to do as we have been to help state.

There are within this great state three and one-half millions of great people whose patriotism and loyalty to their fellow man is unflinching. We urge every loyal Missourian who loves his state and its resources to come to the relief of the cotton section of our state and buy a 500 pound bale at 10 cents per pound, and that you should hold the same for 12 months or until such time as the market price shall be 10 cents or better. We are not offering you a "gold brick," but a bale of cotton worth the \$50 and more will hold it.

We call upon every commercial club and newspaper within this state to give this appeal publicity and help, and that they send in to the Kennett Commercial club the names of those who will "Buy-A-Missouri-Bale."

Respectfully submitted:

KENNETT COMMERCIAL CLUB.

By T. R. R. ELY, President.

Attest: T. H. MASTERSON, Secy.

Upon motion offered by Ike Caldwell to appoint a committee to canvass the town to ascertain how much cotton will be bought, and to investigate conditions in the stricken district, the following men were selected by Mr. Glenn: Ike Caldwell, J. H. McPherson, Sam Carter, W. H. Stubbins, Jr., E. W. Flentge and E. Drusch.

After hearing the report of the Finance Committee the meeting adjourned.

FORMER HUSBAND OF CAPE WOMAN IS SHOT

Poplar Bluff Woman Kills Self After Puncturing ex-Policeman.

Poplar Bluff, Mo., Sept. 14—While in a crowded skating rink at a late hour last night, Mrs. Jeanne Kutchbach shot Clyde Le Rose, a former police officer, three times, and then shot herself in the head, inflicting a wound from which she died in a few minutes. A former wife of La Rose lives in Cape Girardeau.

Mrs. Kutchbach is said to have left her husband last May, taking with her money she had inherited. La Rose also left here at the same time. He returned last week and Mrs. Kutchbach soon followed him.

Mrs. Kutchbach told a policeman yesterday afternoon that she had an appointment to meet La Rose, but said he failed to keep his promise.

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During the early part of the night she was seen following La Rose from place to place and the police kept a close watch upon her, but lost trace of her just before the shooting in the rink.

La Rose was shot through the abdomen and the left leg, paralyzing his left side and spine. It is said he cannot live.

The bullet Mrs. Kutchbach fired at herself passed through her head and lodged in the wall, narrowly missing several people who were near her. She died before medical attention could reach her.

Lyle Kutchbach, her husband, recently passed suit for divorce and the case had been set for the October term of court.

Mrs. Kutchbach was about 2 years old. She came here two years ago with her husband from North Vernon, Ind.

Stenore George McGivray, in new government dredge boat, stopped at the Cape a few minutes Monday morning, on her way to government work on the lower river. She is all steel and is equipped with double propellers, and is on her first trip out from Paducah, Tenn., where she was built.

NON-EDIBLE MUSHROOMS FATAL TO 2 CHILDREN

Four Other Persons are Reported Seriously Ill from the Same Poisoning.

Springfield, Mo., Sept. 15—Two persons are dead and four are in a critical condition as the result of poisoning by eating mushrooms. The dead are Elsie Norris, 12 years old; Orville Norris, 9 years old. Other victims not expected to recover are Sidney Laxton, 20 years old, and a 6-year-old daughter of Mrs. John Norris.

Mrs. Margaret Laxton, at whose home near Galloway the people were stricken, and her daughter, Mrs. Norris, a widow, are ill, but are expected to recover.

The two children died last night. They all ate of the mushrooms, supposed to have been of an edible variety, Sunday morning.



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